

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., January 15, 1889.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox,

Superintendent U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia.

Sir:

I send you copy of the Fiscal Report 1888, and ask your attention to what is said under heading of "Technical operations of mints."

You will observe that I have assumed that the proposed improvement in the cutting and finishing of blanks had been put to a test by ordering the proposed machine from Pratt, Whitney & Co. Suggestion was made by me, either verbally or in writing, that Messrs. Tuttle and James, who have been at work at it, put the matter in some form of specifications, and then proceed to have the machine constructed.

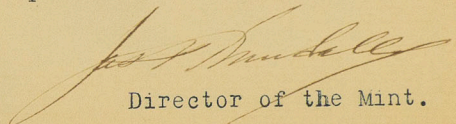
I may say in general that every effort should be made, even at some expense, to overcome the technical difficulties which have become of very serious moment at your mint, owing to the volume of business. And I may further say that my efforts at economy have been chiefly directed to the pay-roll, and that I am not inclined to withhold approval of plans which may be devised by the operative officers to improve mechanical operations.

No encouragement can be expected to improved efficiency on the part of the operative departments unless the efforts of the operative officers in the direction above indicated are met with prompt attention.

You are therefore requested, if steps have not been taken already, to put into a business form a proposal for constructing a cutting machine according to plans and general specifications of Messrs. Tuttle and James, without further action on my part.

A letter from Messrs. Pratt & Whitney consenting to do the specific work at a given price will answer in lieu of contract, as no very exact terms, under the circumstances, can be imposed.

Respectfully yours,



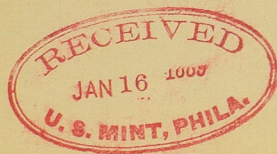
Director of the Mint.

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Washington D. C.
January 15. 1889.

James P. Kimball.
Director.

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